KING ALFONSO WINS BOTH PRESTIGE AND POPULARITY

His Recent Action in Cabi-Approbation.

What Advent of First Conservative Cabinet Involves to Spanish Court.

legislative majority in the house. That was a mere trifle for subsequent arrangement. For as soon as the new premier had formed his ministry he secured from the throne a decree dissolving the cortes. Thereupon he would at once proceed to fill all the offices. especially those in the provinces, with his friends and adherents, and as soon as this was accomplished the general election would take place, the new appointees maneuvering the latter in such a fashion as to return an overwhelming ministerial majority. That has been the invariable custom.

The parliamentary majority has always been manufactured after the formation of the cabinet by artificial means in order to satisfy the needs of the adminstration instead of the latter being organized to conform with the require ments and views of the parliamentary majority in existence at the time of its being intrusted with office. It is this knowledge and assurance that the parliamentary polls would always show an overwhelming majority for the administration that happened to be in power when the general election took place that has exercised such a blighting influence upon popular government in Spain, for it has served to keep a very large and important element of the population from easting its ballets on the ground that no matter how one voted the government would always win. King Alfonso is endeavoring to reform these methods, and the Spanish people at large are grateful to him for the determined fight he has made to accomplish the end he had in view. For an entire month he held out, compelling Sagasta to remain at the head of affairs. until at length the aged premier susained a defeat in the cortes, when the monarch accepted his resignation and summoned the Conservatives to power, this being, I believe, the first instance in Spanish history of a change of cabinet following a ministerial defeat in the

The King's Reasons.

There were other reasons why the King was anxious to keep the Liberals, and especially Senor Sagasta, at the belm. He knew that if he intrusted the formation of a cabinet to the Conservatives it would involve a general election, which in the present disturbed condition of the kingdom is likely to lead to fresh popular outbreaks and troubles. The last general election took place only a year ago, and gave rise to rioting of a more or less sanguinary character throughout the kingdom, and Don Alfonso was anxious to preserve the country from being subjected to another such trial. He. therefore, urged Senor Sagasta to endeavor even at the cost of concessions made to his foes to reconstruct a Liberal cabinet, and the old premier, who had been Queen Christina's principal mentor during her regency, and to whom the young King had been bound by special ties of affection and regard since his earliest childhood, made every possible effort to satisfy his monarch's wishes, actually going to the length of offering a portfolio to the dissident Conservative leader, Romero Robledo.

The latter's pretensions, however, were so extreme, especially with regard to patronage, that the negotiations came to naught, and Sagasta, after having excited the suspicion and ill-will of his own followers by offering concessions to the extreme radicals, and the denunclations of the latter by his attempts to bring Conservatives into his adminis tration, managed to form a cabinet that inspired such universal lack of confidence that it was defeated last week in the cortes through the refusal of a large body of the Liberal party to vote

Silvelas was thereupon summoned to the palace, and has now formed a Conservative administration, the first since King Alfonso has attained his majority, and in which the three principal members are Senor Villaverde, who is the minister of finance; Senor Dato, the minister of justice, and General Linares. who was so badly wounded at the battle

of Santiago, the minister of war. More- suspicion of partiality. Senor Silvelas' over the cortes has been dissolved, and action created an immense amount of of "laisser aller," of letting things law. net Crisis Wins People's a new general election ordered, which discussion at the time, but was warmly slide until they settle themselves, of an overwhelming Conservative majority with the remainder of his career. He, at the polls.

Senor Silvelas' Record.

figures in the political life of Spain. He ago, rather than to be parties to the has much in common with the French has m nection with the recent ministerial ex-Premier Waldeck-Rousseau, and like minister of justice, in hushing up the it remains to be seen whether the throne. The sentiment at the present crisis at Madrid astonished people both the latter has been the leader of the bar scandals in connection with the extraor-change will be for the weal or for the moment in Spain is overwhelmingly in at home and abroad by the precocity of his country, sacrificing the larges: dinary corruption and dishonesty of wee of the Iberian kingdom. In the favor of administrative and economic rewhich it indicated, and has served to and most lucrative practice in Spain the municipality of Madrid, notably of first place the administration feels that form, of progress, of decentralizawhich it indicated, and has served, when he accepted the premiership short- the then mayor and political boss, Senor the political synapathies of the King tion-in one word, of liberalism. And larity. For when Senor Sagasta tender- ly after the war with this country. He Bosch, an intimate friend and political and of his mother are rather with the it is a Conservative government ed the resignation of his Liberal ad- severed his connection with the legal associate of Robledo. ministration at the beginning of November, in consequence of irreconcilable differences among his colleagues, the office, but also for the subsequent porferences among his colleagues, the office, but also for the subsequent por-youthful mouarch, who will not be office of his career, on grounds which ment was organized by Robledo and too, the presence of a Tory cabinet seventeen until next May, declined to afford a remarkable illustration of his certain Conservative ministers to transin power will have the effect of removing from the ultra-radical and republicall the Conservatives into council, or to intrust them in the formation of a reason which he gave for leaving the bar mother to his aunt, the Infanta Isabella, can wing of the Liberal party all that cabinet without a defeat of the Liberal, was that the custom of ex-premiers and on the ground that Christina was a restraint which had been imposed upon cabinet without a defeat of the Liberal, that is to say, the ministerial, party in court is not calculated to promote it as the nearest of the grown up that the Liberals were in office and Ever since the time when Spain was endowed with a constitutional form of endowed with a constitutional form of con

ties. Administrations were dismissed upon the minister of justice for their Spain is synonymous with everything par exicellence, realize that they have ties. Administrations were dismissed upon the minister of justice for their by the crown, or else resigned of their promotion and distinctions of one kind that is honorable and loyal, and as such less to hope in the way of concessions own accord, either when they had ceased and another. Now a judge knowing this, he commands the respect of all parties, from Silvelas than from Sagasta, and own accord, either when they had ceased and another. Now a judge knowing this, to enjoy the confidence and good-will of the monarch, or else when by discourt a lawyer who has already once visions among themselves they had beld the office of cabinet minister, and in the House of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of the theory to the coal problem of course, Romero Robledo, the perpendicular to the coal problem of the theory to th rendered further co-operation with one who is likely to become a cabinet min- in Spanish politics. another in an administration a matter ister again, will naturally be tempted Silvelas, while he can be very elo-

will take place about next April, which commended, both at home and abroad, will give time to the new administra- as the setting of a singularly high cost. According to him the reins of wholesale suppression of archbishopries tion to so reorganize the entire system standard of honor in political life. His government must be kept well in hand, and bishoprics, on the score of economy of provincial government as to assure attitude in this, however, is in keeping as well as Senor Villaverde, to whom he has now intrusted the treasury de-Senor Silvelas Accord.

Senor Silvelas, fortunately for the King, follos in the Conservative cabinet of possessed of a much firmer grasp and sues, which are certain to develop at a is one of the most honored and sterling the late Canovas del Castillo, ten years of more decision of character than very early stage into sources of popular

A Plot Recalled.

On yet another occasion when a move-

compromise and of conciliation at all and the dominant note of his administra- and the taxation of the religious orders tion will be its vigor.

Change for Weal or Woe.

While the helm of the Spanish ship has expressed itself as opposed. Liberals than with the Conservatives. that is in power for no other reason than At least that is the popular inference that the Liberals are so divided among drawn from Don Alfonso's manifest re- themselves, so rent asunder into rival government the invariable practice has government the invariable practice has been for the changes of the cabinet to be made at Madrid without any regard to the majority in the chamber of depute to manufacturing and industrial province specially the republican movement and the home rule agitation are chance of become more acute than that the outlook in Spain is singularly the republican movement and the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make all the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the home rule agitation are certain to become more acute than the to make the acute of the continuence of the contin

nounced. Thoroughly a master of him- ligious schools and religious education, self he is in consequence thereof well a blow, in fact, at the religious orders of qualified to act as the master of others, the kingdom. The decree was signed. and while his policy is likely to prove But inasmuch as Silvelas and the Conof a reactionary character, it will at servatives bitterly opposed it in the any rate be one of action. For he is cortes, it is doubtful whether, now that altogether opposed to Sagasta's methods they are in office, they will apply the

Suppression of Clergy.

Then there is the question of the to which the late government stood committed in deference to popular clamor, but to which the present administration

factions, as to render their continuance in office for the moment impossible. Add to these elements of discordance, Romero Robledo and his fellow dissident Conservatives, who openly avow their preference for their party, such as it is, to the dynasty, and who are bitterly opposed to Silvelas; and General Weyler,

REFUND DUTY ON COAL.

Connecticut, and provides that there The entire anti-clerical element will shall be allowed and paid, under such The Annoyance of the Last Days' Rush

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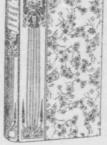
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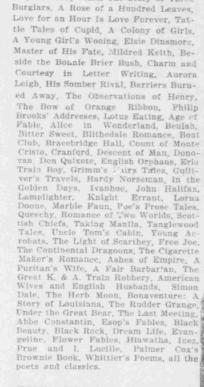
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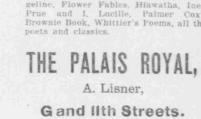




















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